



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin

517 East Wisconsin Avenue

414 / 297-1700

Milwaukee, WI 53202

TTY 414 / 297-1088

NEWS SUMMARY

November 14, 2007

Grand jury issues five firearms-related indictments today

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic, announced today that separate felony indictments were returned against five individuals for firearms charges in federal court in Milwaukee. "The United States Attorney's Office is committed to working closely with local, state and federal law enforcement throughout the district to combat gun violence that so plagues many of our communities. Our goal is to ensure that criminals who possess, sell or use guns are prosecuted under federal or state laws, depending on which jurisdiction can provide the most appropriate punishment," Biskupic explained.

The cases were investigated by the Wisconsin Department of Justice - Division of Criminal Investigation, with assistance from the Tomahawk Police Department and the Racine Police Department. "Providing firearms to convicted felons is a serious crime. Through the Division of Criminal Investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Justice actively investigates illegal gun transfers and works cooperatively with the U.S. Attorney's Office and state prosecutors to help ensure these offenses are appropriately prosecuted," said Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen.

The five individuals named in the indictments are:

1. David King, 30, of Appleton WI, who is charged with a July 2007 delivery of four firearms to a convicted felon. The firearms are alleged to have included a .22 caliber revolver, a .45 caliber revolver, a .22 caliber long rifle pistol, and a .44 caliber revolver.
2. Benjamin Somers, 20, of Tomahawk, WI, charged with an August 2007 delivery of a .357 revolver to a convicted felon.
3. Patrick Bennett, 22, of Waterford, WI, charged with a May 2007 delivery of a 9mm pistol to a convicted felon, and an August 2007 transfer of a non-registered, short-barreled shotgun.
4. Russell Bennett, 18, of Waterford, WI, charged with a September 2007 delivery of a .357 revolver to a convicted felon.
5. Michael R. Harte, Jr., 22, of Crandon, WI, charged with a September 2007 delivery of a 9mm pistol to a convicted felon.

Each of the defendants faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines on each count

if convicted.

The public is cautioned that an indictment is merely the method of lodging charges against an individual and does not constitute inference of his or her guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, that the government establishes his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

#

For more information contact:

Michelle L. Jacobs, First Assistant United States Attorney, 414-297-1700